News-Item "Pipavav Project to Get from Tapti Fields"

75. SHRI BRAHMA KUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned Pipavav project to get from Tapti Fields which appeared in the Times of India (Ahmedabad Edition) dated 27th May, 2000;

(b) whether impasse between the Union Government and the State Government on allocation of gas has been resolved;

(c) if so, the details of resolution;

(d) the quantum of crude royalty increased to Gujarat; and

(e) the reasons for clearing gas allocation and increase in royalty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) An in principle allocation to the extent of 2.25 Million Standard Cubic Metre Per Day (MMSCMD) of natural gas from Tapti fields effective from 2003 has been made for the gas based power project proposed to be set up at Pipavav in Gujarat, The above allocation is subject to the investment decision to be taken by the Management Committee of the Tapti field for the additional development of the field.

(d) The rate of royalty on crude oil payable to the oil producing States including Gujarat has been increased from Rs. 578 per metric tonne (MT) to Rs. 750 per MT, with effect from June 01, 1999, and thereafter to Rs. 800 per MT, with effect from January 01, 2000, or 20% of the Well head value, which ever is lower.

(e) Various oil producing States had requested for review of the royalty on crude oil and separately Gujarat Government had requested for allocation of natural gas for the gas based power project at Pipavav.

Proposal to open new Petrol Pumps in the country

76. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the number of petrol pumps in different parts of the country;